

REMARKS

This response is offered in reply to the Office Action of October 4, 2002.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate allowance of claims 1-11 and 13.

Pages 7 and 8 have been amended to conform the drawings and specification.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of the Lorraine '861 patent.

Pending claim 12 is believed to distinguish patentably over the cited '861 patent. For example, the examiner cites column 1, lines 1-30 of the '861 patent. However, that cited portion of the '861 patent discloses trapping atmospheric air when the diaphragm is sealed or introducing a gas into the damper chamber through a valve prior to sealing the diaphragm.

In contrast, claim 12 recites a method of making a fuel pressure pulse damper by assembling a flexible diaphragm in a damper body in a gas pressurized enclosure having superambient gas therein such that the superambient gas is trapped in a sealed chamber between the diaphragm and the damper body.

The '861 patent at column 1, lines 1-30 discloses to trap atmospheric air when the diaphragm is sealed or to introduce a gas into the damper chamber through a valve prior to sealing the diaphragm. The patent does not disclose assembling a flexible diaphragm in a damper body in a gas pressurized enclosure having superambient gas therein such that the superambient gas is trapped in a sealed chamber between the diaphragm and the damper body.

To overcome the problem associated with introduction of a gas into the damper chamber through a valve prior to sealing the diaphragm, the '861 patent teaches to place a body of dry ice (solid CO₂) in the damper chamber so that the dry ice body can subsequently generate a pressure in the damper chamber by a phase transformation from a solid or liquid state to a gaseous state in-situ in the damper chamber.

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This disclosure of the patent does not involve assembling a flexible diaphragm in a damper body in a gas pressurized enclosure having superambient gas therein such that the superambient gas is trapped in a sealed chamber between the diaphragm and the damper body.

Pending claim 12 is believed to be allowable over the cited '861 patent.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of claim 12 along with the other claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

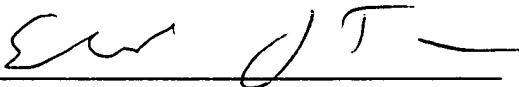


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I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 2, 2003.



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A version of claim 12 marked up to show changes made thereto follows:

12. (Twice Amended) A method of making a fuel pressure pulse damper, comprising assembling a flexible diaphragm in a damper body in a gas pressurized enclosure having superambient gas therein [in a manner to trap] such that said superambient gas is trapped in a sealed chamber between the diaphragm and the damper body.

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